

## **SAMPLE ELEMENT QUALIFICATION**

### Abstract of the Disclosure

A sample element includes first and second substantially parallel faces separated by an intermediate member. The parallel faces and the intermediate member at least partially define a sample chamber configured to hold a volume of fluid. The sample element further includes an optical path extending through the parallel faces and the intermediate member, such that electromagnetic radiation can propagate through the sample chamber. The sample element further includes an identifying compound disposed within or on at least one of the parallel faces. The identifying compound has at least one indexed optical absorbance feature, such that spectral analysis of electromagnetic radiation propagated through the sample chamber yields the indexed optical absorbance feature. Detection of the indexed optical absorbance feature in electromagnetic radiation propagated through the sample chamber indicates to an analyte detection system whether the sample element is configured for use with the analyte detection system.

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